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OIDI implementing strategic plan

Five-year project informed by national and campus events

BY HANNAH PAIGE MICHELS
Campus News Editor

Xavier's Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion (OIDI) is expected to be in the spotlight this year as it launches its new five-year strategic plan for 2017-2022.

The plan, approved in May by Xavier's Board of Trustees, is providing a "new vision for the office," according to Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer Janice Walker. She describes the plan as "ambitious" but also "comprehensive."

The strategic plan has been a work in progress for most of the 2016-2017 academic year and is now in full implementation.

The OIDI is a newer part of Xavier's campus. Walker stepped into the officer role in October 2016, just before the release of Xavier's climate survey results, the presidential election and the back-to-back racial incidents on campus.

"The implementation of the (plan) is critically important, especially in light of the rhetoric and events in our

country today," Walker said.

The results of the 2016 climate survey as well as the racial incidents from last year helped inform the strategic plan.

The office had at least 11 meetings with students and faculty (including panels of women, faculty of color, international students, etc.) about how to respond to the climate survey results.

Events such as Courageous Conversations and the 2016 Bias Advisory Response Team (BART) forum also gave the office clarity to the "experiences and perceptions of people at the university," Walker explained. These events helped the office decide on goals and "what we need to see happen at the university."

The Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan has six goals. For example, the first goal is "create and maintain a welcoming, inclusive and equitable campus climate characterized by support and respect for all members of the university community."

All six goals and the full 14-page plan can be found at xavier.edu/diversity.

With the new OIDI came a new organizational structure requiring the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) to report to Walker and Walker to report to Fr. Michael Graham, president. There was no office or Chief Diversity Officer (now the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer) from November 2013 to October 2016, but now the OIDI is fully staffed.

As a part of the plan's fourth goal, there is a pi-



News wire photo by Kevin Thomas

The new Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion (OIDI) is located on the first floor of the McDonald Memorial Library. The office's five-year plan was approved in May and will be implemented this year.

lot Diversity and Inclusion Teaching Academy this fall. The program was created as a collaboration among the OIDI, CTE and faculty with expertise in gender and diversity studies. The program will consist of about 30 faculty members split into two groups. Faculty will complete 14 60-90 minute modules (mostly online) that include videos and articles, and the program will help develop diversity competencies such as "awareness of self/privilege."

Moreover, faculty will learn how to implement inclusive teaching strategies and how to facilitate difficult but crucial conversations in the classroom. Walker hopes that eventually all faculty will go through this program.

Part of the strategic plan includes incentivizing faculty to learn about diversity and inclusion as well as providing them with resources to incorporate it into their courses.

Faculty members have an annual update with their department chairs and deans, and Walker hopes that diversity and inclusion will now be a natural place in the evaluation update when faculty members summarize their year of teaching. This means that faculty can be recognized and potentially rewarded monetarily for work in diversity and inclusion, just as how one may receive merit in other sections such as publications, research or mentorship.

"If the university values diversity and inclusion, then I would like for it to be, in some way, faculty can see that in the evaluation," Walker said. She hopes that, if faculty know that diversity and inclusion is a part of their evaluation, they will be incentivized to include it in their courses and work at Xavier or through giving talks and presentations at conferences.

"We want the faculty to get

some 'credit,' in the sense of this is a service that we value at the university," Walker said. "We want it to be acknowledged and recognized and seen as valuable to who we are and what we are trying to achieve as an institution...I want the (diversity and inclusion) training to be recognized, and I want people who create courses, people who mentor students of color, people who do all kinds of things that make us more diverse and inclusive (to be recognized)."

Diversity and inclusion is also being strengthened across campus in areas like Manresa, Smooth Transitions and GOA. The Diversity Flag core curriculum is being expanded and updated as well, including the support of developing new courses.

According to Walker, the OIDI will be leading and driving the implementation of the Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan.



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

Dr. Janice Walker, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer

Manresa eases college transition for first-years

BY SOONDOS MULLA-OSSMAN
Copy Editor

It can be understandably terrifying for first-year students as they acclimate to the new college environment, professors and peers. Manresa, Xavier's new student orientation program, is designed to ease the process of transitioning from high school to college.

Just by watching a pair of group leaders brightly waving to their Manresa students as they passed by Coffee Emporium, it was easy to see that the four-day program had made an impact. It was a Sunday afternoon,

and they had just held their final small group meeting that morning. Luz Peredo-Muniz, a senior athletic training major with a pre-physical therapy minor, and Sean DeLellis, a sophomore nursing major, were just two of more than 100 group leaders who helped make this Manresa possible.

The theme of this year's Manresa, "Creating Our Future Together," emphasized the community the students would be building alongside each other. Peredo-Muniz, who has been a group leader for three years now, noticed the different focus.

"It was very focused on

Jesuit values and how, even though we're all different, all diverse, we can include ourselves together and make a community such as Xavier's where everyone is like 'all for one, one for all,'" Peredo-Muniz said.

Other new additions ranged from a pinning ceremony to a "gender pronoun guide" discussed with students.

This year's orientation program was DeLellis's first as group leader. His favorite moment occurred when he and Peredo-Muniz received a text from one of their students after a small group meeting.

"The student really just

wanted to ask us for advice..." DeLellis said. "They were kind of sitting in the background in high school, and they were never really the outgoing person or the extrovert person. And they really wanted to put themselves out there, but they just didn't really know how to. So they reached out to Luz and I. It just felt good to know that they trusted us to the point where they could ask us for help when they needed it."

Peredo-Muniz, on the other hand, treasured both planned ice-breakers and idle conversation where the group discovered things they could all laugh at or love in spite of

their individual differences.

"A small group within our Manresa group would go play basketball together during free time," she cited as just one example.

Overall, both group leaders were glad to have been able to impact the lives of incoming students in this year's Manresa. The memories are quickly becoming bittersweet to Peredo-Muniz, since it is the last time she can be a group leader.

Meanwhile, DeLellis, inspired, by his rewarding experience, hopes to be a group leader again next year.

Xavier Health will host AI Summit

Xavier Center for Artificial Intelligence gathers industry experts for solutions



Photo courtesy of ctg.com

Xavier Health will be hosting the Artificial Intelligence Summit this Thursday and Friday. The Xavier Center for Artificial Intelligence is a collaborative effort backed by many departments. It will lead this initiative to develop AI solutions for all. Teams will continue to meet after the summit and will make their solutions available to any company or organization, free of charge.

BY ELLEN BAVERMAN
Staff Writer

Xavier will invite medical, pharmaceutical and other professional specialists and organizations to “Join FDA and industry experts to develop quality, regulatory and supply chain solutions through the power of AI (artificial intelligence),” this week.

The Xavier Center for Artificial Intelligence, which is a collaborative effort backed by many departments, will lead this initiative to develop AI

solutions for all. The summit will be directed by representatives from medical and pharmaceutical industries who will connect with other experts in an effort to improve aspects of patient care using AI technology.

AI is defined as the development of computer systems to accomplish tasks and skills that would previously require human abilities.

AI is applicable today in many areas, especially in patient care within the medi-

cal field. Some of its medical uses include patient safety, the avoidance of drug and product recalls, the reduction of drug costs and early diagnoses.

Teams will be continuing to meet after the summit, which is held at the end of the month. The solutions that come from these meetings will be made available to any company or organization, free of charge.

The ultimate goal is to develop safer and more proac-

tive care for patients.

Although AI innovations are at the forefront of technology, the subject is controversial.

“In this case, for the medical field, (AI) is a good idea. It will save many lives through its ability and attention for detail,” sophomore Annie Mese-wicz said.

“My fear is that technology will be developed that people are not prepared for. There will be consequences, and many jobs could be at stake.”

While the development of AI may present new challenges and risks, such as technology replacing some human jobs, it also provides new academic opportunities and the possibility for safer, more efficient medical solutions, according to Healthcare IT News.

The AI Summit paves the way for Xavier to play an influential role in cutting edge technology and allows the campus to put its minds and resources to use in the wider community.

Student Government holds first meeting of year

SGA talks new Emergency Fund, HUB, promoting a welcoming environment

BY SOONDOS MULLA-OSSMAN
Copy Editor

The Student Government Association’s (SGA) first meeting this year set an example by being both serious in its delivery and optimistic in its mood. Because numerous developments made during the summer could not be addressed until this first meeting, a wealth of information significant to all students was shared.

•Dr. James Snodgrass was invited to the meeting that afternoon. He announced significant changes to academic advising, stating it had possessed “variability and unevenness” in the past. Faculty truly care about how students are doing, he said, but given their numerous other commitments they can only arrange one formal meeting per semester. For this reason and the fact that they may not be equipped to handle a student’s issues outside of academia, Xavier has rebranded “Success Coaching” as “Student Success Center.” Using a new system called EAB, every incoming first-year and sophomore student will be assigned a four-person team of people they can turn to: a faculty professor, financial aid counselor, success coach and career advisor. This program aims to ensure the early success of students. Snodgrass stated that the university makes

promises to students and “every now and then we find out we didn’t do as good a job as we could’ve done.”

•Snodgrass announced that the university had applied for a grant that would provide emergency funds for students qualifying. The grant will allocate \$45,000 for the next two years, a total of \$90,000, for student emergency grants. Eligible students can receive up to \$1,000 to cover emergency expenses not directly related to university expenses such as rent, transportation and food.

•To be eligible, students must be undergraduates, have filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$7,000. As such, emergency grants are oriented toward Xavier’s undergraduates at highest risk of leaving school due to financial emergencies. The university has pledged \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year as part of the program.

•The Health United Building (HUB), the new health facility planned jointly by Xavier University and Tri-Health, is planning on breaking ground in December.

In between mentions of two vacancies in the senate, requests to change club names



Photo courtesy of the Board of Elections

SGA executives: Vice President Eduardo Patron (left), President Zeina Farhat (center) and Vice President Ryan Fitzgerald (right). The executives kicked off their final semester with the first meeting of the year on Monday.

and a reminder of campus event dates was a light atmosphere. A snack list for the council was quickly proposed. Senators occasionally cracked jokes.

“(The beginning of the executive team’s term) started off as very formal because we wanted it to be taken seriously – SGA’s not a joke, we have

a lot of responsibility,” SGA president Zeina Farhat said. “It shouldn’t be taken as a joke, but there also needs to be some lightheartedness to it.”

“We don’t want to scare away the students we’re trying to represent,” SGA Vice President Eduardo Patron added.

SGA meetings are conduct-

ed weekly on Mondays at 3 p.m. in the Office of Student Involvement and are open to everyone. The organization hopes to maintain its friendly, transparent atmosphere and encourages first-year students to attend and expose themselves to information significant to them while fostering an enjoyable environment.

Confederate statues debate rages

Xavier students react to rising tensions following neo-Nazi rally in Va.



A man was arrested for allegedly attempting to bomb a statue of Richard Dowling (above) in Houston, Texas. Dowling was a recruiter and military leader for the Confederacy. Recently, there have been a number of actions around the country focusing on taking down Confederate memorials.

BY SAVIN MATTOZZI
Staff Writer

The “Unite the Right” rally drew hundreds of White supremacists and neo-Nazis to the sleepy college town of Charlottesville, Va., to protest the removal of a statue of Robert E. Lee. The day ended in the death of 32-year-old Heather Heyer and the injuries of at least 35 others after a car rammed counter protest-

ers and clashes took place between antifascists and White supremacists.

Since the rally, cities and states have been speeding up the removal of other Confederate statues to prevent violence in their areas.

“I feel like people are sick and tired,” sophomore Rodrigo Garcia de Quevedo said. “The more White supremacy that has been happening re-

cently, the more people want these symbols to be taken down.”

Gainesville, Fla., Baltimore and Birmingham, Al., have all taken steps to, or have already removed Confederate statues. Protesters in Durham, N.C., tore down a statue of a Confederate soldier in front of a government building on Aug. 14.

President Donald Trump

described the removal of Confederate statues from public spaces across the country as “sad” and “so foolish.” He continued that it was “sad to see the history and culture of our great country being ripped apart with the removal of our beautiful statues and monuments... You can’t change history, but you can learn from it.”

“On the Left, people think

that all of the statues should be taken down. However, I think that something should be said about the history,” senior Erich Finch said. “At the same time in so many rural southern communities, the Confederacy is an important part of their culture and history, so I understand to a degree why these communities have so much animosity about these statues coming down.”

On Aug. 21, a man was arrested while trying to place an explosive device on a statue of Richard Dowling, a Confederate army lieutenant, in a Houston park. Andrew Schneck, 25, was charged with attempting to maliciously damage or destroy property receiving federal financial assistance, according to the *Associated Press*.

Garcia de Quevedo believes that the statues ought to be gone, but thinks there are better routes than violence.

“They shouldn’t be there,” Garcia de Quevedo said. “I think if people take them down violently, it’s not helping, but I do think that they should be taken down. These statues give White supremacists an excuse to be racist. They should have (statues of) Martin Luther King, Jr. or Fredrick Douglass because they represent what true American freedom is about.”

Mo. governor gives last-minute stay due to DNA

BY KEVIN THOMAS
Campus News Editor

Marcellus Williams was not put to death by the state of Missouri. Williams, 48, was scheduled to be killed at 7p.m. on Tuesday until Missouri Gov. Eric Grietens issued a stay of the execution only hours before the event after his attorneys brought forth DNA evidence that they claim was unavailable during his 2001 trial.

“A sentence of death is the ultimate, permanent punishment,” Grietens said in a press release on Tuesday afternoon. “To carry out the death penalty, the people of Missouri must have confidence in the judgment of guilt. In light of new information, I am appointing a Board of Inquiry in this case.”

The death penalty is already a controversial issue and Missouri is one of 31 states with it legalized. Ohio is also one of those 31 states, and put a man to death in July of this year, the first person executed in Ohio since 2014. There are three more people scheduled to be executed in Ohio this year, according to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.

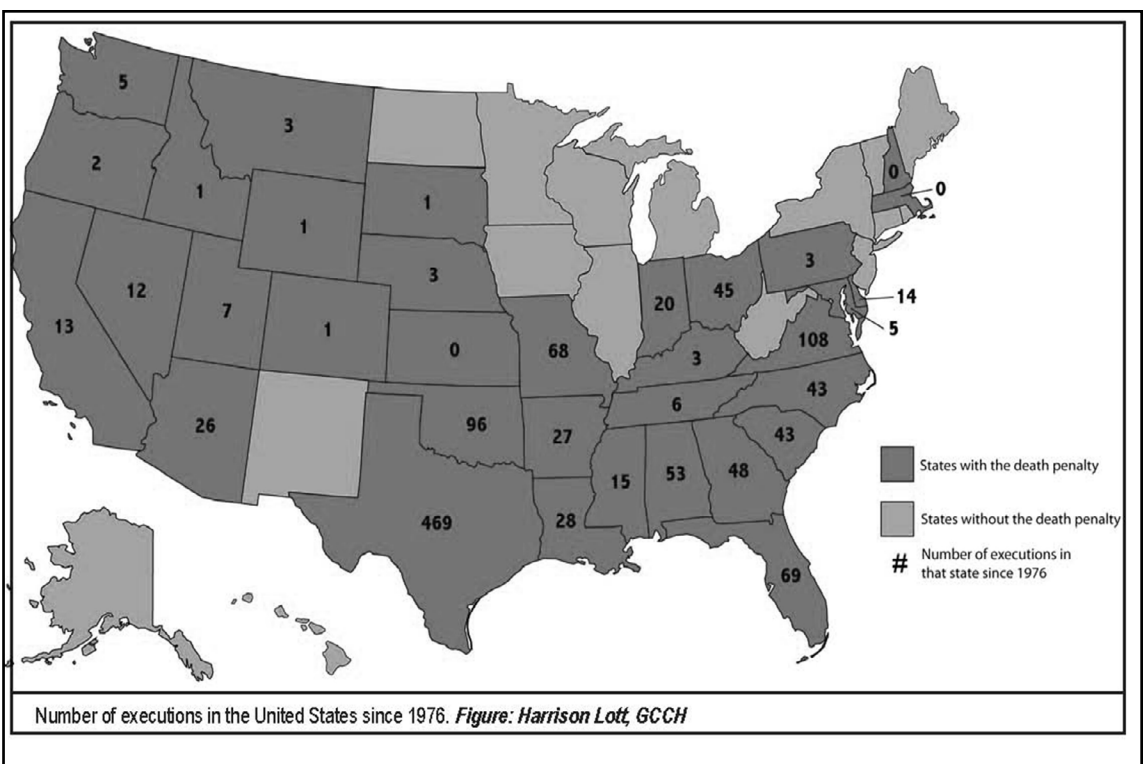
“I don’t think that we

should execute people,” junior psychology major Sequoia Patterson-Johnson said. “I think it’s odd that we kill people who kill people to show that killing people is wrong. That would confuse the s*** out of a 4-year-old.”

Williams was tried in 2001 for allegedly stabbing Felicia Gayle, a former reporter, to death 43 times and found guilty. He has been on death row since then. He received a stay of execution in 2015 as well, which allowed his lawyers time to get the DNA testing on the murder weapon completed. The new evidence revealed that there is no DNA from Williams on the weapon. There is, however, DNA from another male.

“I think it’s good that they’re letting him bring new evidence to court,” Patterson-Johnson said. “A lot of times that doesn’t happen, they just keep ignoring their pleas. When they file grievances, it usually doesn’t get them anywhere.”

The Missouri Attorney General’s Office had previously planned to continue on with the execution, saying that the other evidence was good enough to prove without a doubt that Williams was



There are currently 31 states that have the death penalty legalized and 19 without it. Ohio has already executed one person in 2017, the first execution in three years. There are three more people scheduled to die this year.

guilty, according to CNN.

“Based on the other, non-DNA, evidence in this case, our office is confident in Marcellus Williams’ guilt,” Loree Anne Paradise, the deputy chief of staff for Attorney General Josh Hawley, said.

According to CNN, the non-DNA evidence Paradise is referring to is a laptop and other personal items that belonged to Gayle and her husband. The laptop was found in the trunk of Williams’ car and he allegedly pawned the other items. Other evidence includes testimony from two associates of Williams at the time, who said that he confessed the murder to them.

However, forensic DNA expert and biologist Greg Hampikian, who was hired by the defense, says that the DNA evidence ought to change the situation.

“(The DNA on the knife) isn’t enough to incriminate someone, but it is enough to exclude somebody,” Hampikian said. “It’s like finding a Social Security card with some blurred numbers. There’s still enough there to at least exclude someone.”

I am afraid for future generations

After concluding my sixth year as a summer camp counselor, I can now fully comprehend one thing: I am fearful for future generations.

Let me preface this by saying that for the first five years of working at my local town summer camp, I was a camp counselor for junior camp, which has kids ages 8-11. This year, however, I assumed a leadership position, being promoted to the athletic director of senior camp, which has kids ages 12-14.

Having a bigger role at the camp allowed me to interact with the kids more as opposed to previous years when I was assigned to a group. That wasn't a bad thing by any means, it just meant that I was more exposed to the new fledgling teen culture that even to me, only being 19, is somehow nothing like when

I was the same age as the campers. What I discovered is that I am quite appalled and frightened by the outlook of this generation and for generations to come.

The reason I thought about this topic in the first place is because of an almost daily exchange between me, an experienced counselor, and a group of soon-to-be eighth graders. Some of the things I heard/saw from them are just utterly distasteful. Even with me being within earshot, I heard them almost purposefully holler out vulgarities and other crude remarks that were certainly not appropriate for camp by any means. Some of these comments were even directed at me, especially when I asked them to be a part of my athletic activities, which was the main duty of my position.



Luke Feliciano is a sophomore sport management and advertising double major. He is also the Sports Editor for the Newswire from Rutherford, N.J.

The only power I really had in stopping this sort of behavior was to simply tell them repeatedly to not use that type of language at camp, but against my wishes, they continued to anyway.

Even now, I am still trying to wrap my mind around why some of the campers acted so brashly, but I was able to determine a few possible reasons. Maybe they were seeking attention for themselves? Possibly, but a more likely scenario is that kids at the age they are at my camp (12-14) are encountering their first tastes of independence. Perhaps that is the reason they acted out the way they did. Those are all potential conclusions, but for me the proof is in the pudding, and that pudding is technology.

What I've come to finally understand is that despite these kids being only a few years younger than I am, they grew up in a much more technologically advanced time than I did. For instance, many of the campers walked around fidgeting with their iPhones. When I was their age, I was lucky to even have a cell

phone. I had one of those flip phones that to text, you had to hit the button multiple times for the letter to change. There was one day when, no joke, I turned around in the cafeteria, and every single camper was looking down doing something on a smartphone.

While I have to admit myself, technology is great, it is corrupting our youth. With the seemingly endless 24/7 plugged-in atmosphere that technology like smartphones create, kids nowadays won't let it leave their fingertips. It exposes kids to nearly unlimited Internet access that for the most part is left harmfully uncensored. That is the chief reason why I think kids tend to use such foul language and lash out against superiors today. That's what they have become accustomed to, and if this trend is happening to kids not even a decade younger than me, what's going to happen to the next generation? And the generation after that?

My biggest fear is that they are going to rely solely upon technology, which would inhibit growth and maturity in areas like social interaction,

something that is crucial to development. Don't get me wrong, technology is wonderful and useful, but until kids, and adults, for that matter, can understand that there should be a limit to its use, future generations are doomed. Yes, by all means should technology be utilized, but it should be employed for meaningful reasons.

Instead of watching some mainstream YouTube video, or some useless viral Twitter video, get some fresh air and do something productive. Play a game, try something new, explore. Whatever the case, there seems to be a problem we all need to fix and that only starts with teaching our youth the right way to act and think.

With the dawn of some highly sophisticated technological advances set to take place over the next few years, the problem might only be exacerbated. The fact of the matter is that until we can finally learn to disconnect from such an overbearing technological age, our future generations are in for a real digital dilemma.

Inclusive communities vital for forming identity

In today's modern academic spaces, one of the most important things we talk about is identity and the formation of identity. Developing minds learning together in a common space have the potential to express themselves in many different ways. First-years, this open letter is addressed to you. In the following sentences, I will attempt to put your fears at ease, to reassure you that at Xavier University as you strive to learn more about the world, you will also be able to comfortably learn about yourself.

When I was in high school I underwent a journey of self-discovery that included finding a safe space and stick-

ing to it. This was both a blessing and a curse, because while it demonstrated that there are communities out there that will respect you for who you are, it also demonstrated that within the confines of one community it is sometimes difficult to experience individual exploration at the same time. One of the biggest blessings for us as Xavier students is that Xavier doesn't neces-

sitate confined spaces for self-expression. Many classrooms, public spaces, professors and dormitories offer a chance for you to be who you are.

The positive side of this is that you have the opportunity to affirm your identities in a

way that allows you to continue to be an individual. You can take classes with those of similar interests, you can seek out peer groups who share values and you can generally allow yourself to be yourself.

Now, the downside of this is that many people who occupy larger identity groups take these privileges for granted. So it is also important to recognize, respect and include identities that are different from your own. This will only serve to better round out your own identity.

So why am I writing this? This is my own personal experience after all, and maybe it's not applicable to everyone who has gone here! Which, truth is, I understand that shortcoming of my perspective. But what I think is important to remember is that this is the kind of space that you can create just by desiring

to have it at your school.

So your challenge, first-years, is to create an inclusive, inviting, informative space in which to learn not just about the world around you, but also about yourselves.

Identity becomes integrated in us when we allow it to do so. A community where repression must take place for certain members to feel comfortable is not a complete community. Therefore, we must drive as a student body, achieving excellence together in academics, athletics and extracurriculars, to also achieve excellence in ourselves.

During the upcoming school year, first-years, think about what kind of a class environment you want. You and only you have the power to build a climate of comfortable inclusion, a place where a community strives to understand its individual members

better. Ultimately, this will only make your pursuit of knowledge, the journey that is college, an easier, more inviting, more fulfilling place to be.

I exhort you with the previous sentiments not because I want to sound self-righteous in my experience but because I want everyone at this university to be able to study what they love as the person that they are.



Max Bruns is a senior HAB and English double major. He is also a copy editor for the Newswire from Cincinnati.

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The Xavier Newswire is committed to reporting the news as well as explain its significance to readers. In addition, through publishing opposing viewpoints and opinions, the Newswire hopes to foster a dialogue on campus, among students, faculty and staff.

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*The Newswire has made the decision to stray from the AP Style Guide when printing the words White and Black in reference to groups of people. We have decided to capitalize both.

We must be proactive in our fight

We can all agree on a single point: the monologues delivered during the Real World: Xavier Social Issues Monologues were more than electrifying. There wasn't one that failed to arouse the utmost support and sympathy amongst the crowd of Xavier first-years.

All political differences stood at a standstill. All briefly stood united as allies for a moment before the testimonies, testimonies which openly expressed their issues or concerns with becoming acclimated to collegiate life at Xavier. But out of them all, there was one that stood out as exceptional, insofar that it related to recent developments in the political sphere. Most of the monologues dealt with issues of individuals coping with college life while being physically or mentally disabled in some way or the anxieties that plague the minds of incoming students. But the speech delivered by Rhandi Wallace effectively mobilized not just sympathy, but solidarity.

There was, however, a caveat. The problem is not that it was too radical, too impassioned or too angry, but that it was not radical enough. The moment that especially stuck out was the apparent surprise at the notion that racism could continue to exist today — that “it’s 2017.” That, not only is the issue of a continued discrimination “not caught up with the times,” but that we should “wait patiently” for change to happen. The problem with this is that temporality is irrelevant — that racism

continues to exist today is not “exceptional,” it’s not abnormal and it doesn’t result simply from ignorance. The predispositions of a racist person aren’t found in a lacking education — in fact, one can easily find the most disgusting racism not in Trump-populist circles of what are, wrongly, called “White trash,” but in academic environments, es-



The class of 2021 flashes the “X” at the start of Manresa. Freshman Grayson Walker was inspired by the Real World: Xavier Social Issues Monologues to write a response to one that dealt with racism in today’s society.

pecially in the field of evolutionary psychology and other pseudoscientific dogmas. To treat racism today as an aberration that is the fault of individual ignorance is to fail to recognize that racism is not only systemic but continually reproduced within the contours of human activity today.

What do we mean by “racism?” To define it as bigotry toward other peoples based on external appearance, national origin or cultural identification is not enough. The roots of racism are immanent to the structure of modern society itself, not a dying remnant of a less developed past. What we call racism is a projection of the general misanthropy of capitalist society onto its

relationship between proletarian and bourgeois subjects are reified and displaced onto the “Other.” The archetypal unemployed, poor white “red-neck” who blames immigrants for job insecurity can feel like his own master when a systemic problem is shifted onto an external intruder. It is too simplistic to frame the issue of a lack of understanding or

of ignorance on the individual level. This is nothing more than concerning oneself with the symptom without diagnosing the disease itself.

This is where we should begin: We must not be afraid of a radical critique of a society which not only tolerates the expression of racist speech and behavior, but one that engenders it in the first place. To treat such issues as individual aberrations is to miss the mark completely, because it assumes that the only difference between you and a White supremacist is that the latter is not learned enough in the beauty of a multicultural, colorful society. The naiveté is shockingly weak, intellectually lazy and even dangerous.

Do we think the likes of Richard Spencer could be absolved of their crime by merit of having a #discussion? Is the difference between you, a Universalist liberal, and David Duke merely a misunderstanding? To assume so is to wrongly assert that one operates by the same standards as one’s opponents. If it’s only misunderstanding that separates you and a White nationalist, and if upon understanding their ideas you become friends, then the hostility between the two of you has been ultimately false, and it is evi-

dent that for you this is not an issue to be taken seriously.

The fact we must face is that there are real enemies here, and the solution cannot be resolved by word-mongering and self-masturbatory chant hymns. The recent events in Charlottesville are testimonies to the harsh reality that we are not simply fighting a remnant of older modes of thought but that there is a profound resuscitation and even a normalization of “fringe” fascist movements.

We must admit that we as a Left have unilaterally failed in our mission to stop this. Why? Because we have remained “patient” for the revolution to start. We wait for the day where there will be a great overcoming of our problems and a resolution of all differences in society. This mentality betrays an absolute faith in the status quo but fails to recognize that our ills have no basis in anything outside actual people. There is no “Other” that will save the day.

We must be vigilant, and we must not be afraid of confronting the evils that face us. We and we alone are responsible for the society we live in because there is no external figure guaranteeing our existence or our democratic standards. If we do not ac-

tively reproduce these standards, they will cease to exist. If we do not actively fight the causations of racist or bigoted behavior in general, it will continue to thrive.

We must begin to approach the world like engineers — the only way to truly change the world we live in, from the ground up, is to subject it to critique. We can radically reorganize society so that racism has no foundational basis of existence. We can end police brutality, misogyny, homophobia and gender inequality, but this is contingent on us and us alone, because only we are responsible for this world. And if we are responsible for a world in which racism continues to exist, does this not make us active participants in its reproduction?

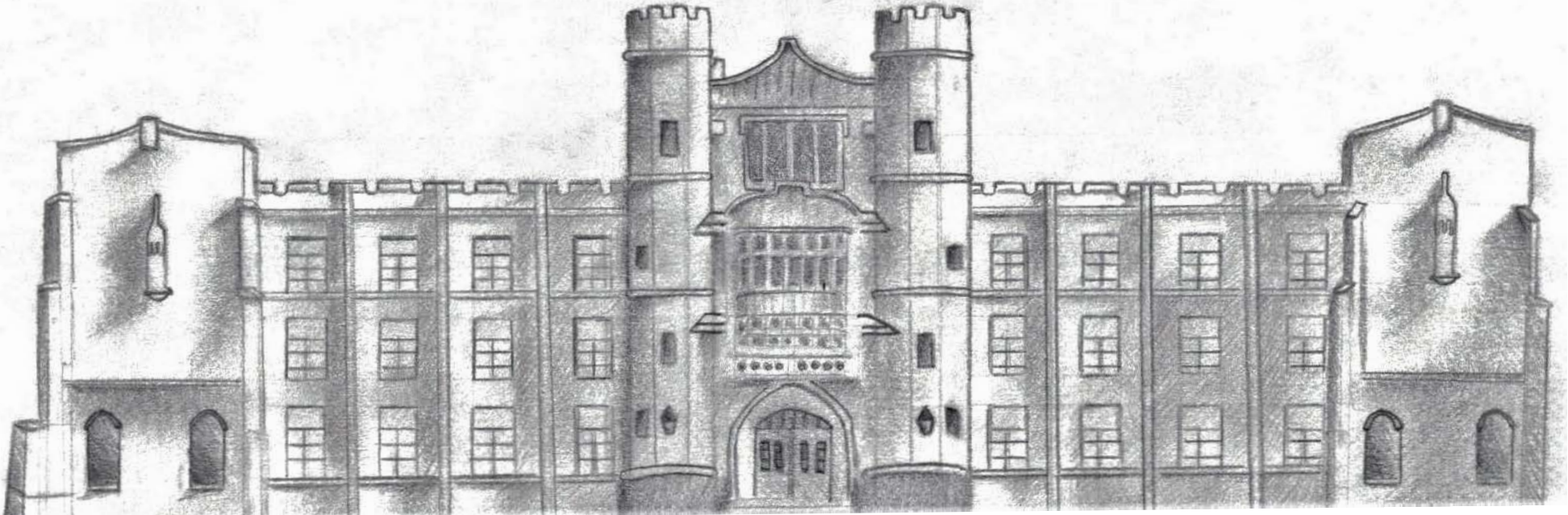
An eye that gazes into evil and refuses to confront it is a participant in that very evil. We must organize, we must theorize and we must be active in the struggle of emancipation. There is no guarantee that things will be all right.

Is there a Left which can effectively provide an alternative? Do we have faith that another world is possible, or are our lamentations over social injustice merely left-liberal virtual signaling? These are questions which will only be answered in practice, through the work of actual men and women for others.

The oppressed and the damned of this world don’t need your tears, and they don’t need your sympathy. What they need is your solidarity. We must become more than allies — we must be partisans. We cannot take for granted the democratic institutions that are now under siege.



Grayson Walker is a first-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public major. He is a guest writer for the Newswire from Greenville, S.C.



MLB playoff race starts to heat up

The Dodgers are atop the MLB and are surging towards record-setting pace



Photo courtesy of truebluelua.com

Corey Seager (right) and Justin Turner (back left) greet Curtis Granderson (center) at home plate after a home run. The Dodgers are hoping to make a run at the 2017 World Series.

BY PAUL FRITSCHNER
Staff Writer

There are few things in the sports world like a division race in baseball down the stretch. Some teams crack under the pressure and give away their lead while others thrive and ride those waves of momentum through a long run in October. This year, the MLB playoff picture is crystal clear in some divisions and extremely muddy in others.

In baseball, it is very difficult to designate a “super-team” like you can in the NBA or the NFL where one player has a much larger impact on the outcome of

a game. With 162 games to play in only a few months, baseball relies on a solid cycle of ebbs and flows.

However, the Los Angeles Dodgers are doing their best to attack that norm and set records wherever they see fit. With an insane record of 88-35, the Dodgers are 20.5 games ahead of the Colorado Rockies for first place in the National League West. Here’s the craziest part though: at 68-56, the Rockies have the third best record in the National League and would be in first place in the National League Central if they weren’t sequestered to Den-

ver. The Dodgers are chasing the Seattle Mariners’ record of 116 wins, which they set in 2001.

Speaking of the Central, the defending champions, the Chicago Cubs, are only two games ahead of the Milwaukee Brewers for first place. The Cubs surged out of the All Star break to reclaim the division, but the Brewers are hot on their heels. Even the St. Louis Cardinals and Pittsburgh Pirates are both within seven games of catching the Cubs.

In the National League East, it’s the Washington Nationals’ division to lose yet

again. They are in first place by 14 games, and no other team in the East is even .500 or better.

Over on the American League side, things are much less clear. The Houston Astros hold baseball’s second-best record at 76-48, and are 12 games up in the West, but everyone else is still in a battle. In the East, the Boston Red Sox are only ahead by four and a half games, and in the Central, the Cleveland Indians, who came up short in the World Series last year, are ahead by five and a half games.

There are an astronomical

seven teams within five games of the Minnesota Twins for the second wild card spot, and one of those teams, the Toronto Blue Jays, is six games under .500 with a record of 59-65.

The Dodgers are far and away the favorites right now. With 12 more wins than any other team, a stacked rotation, a solid lineup and a lockdown bullpen, they’re in prime position to make a run at their first World Series championship since 1988. Time will tell, but with all of the scenarios that could shake out, this should be a wild couple of months.

Xavier soccer prepped for season

Men’s and women’s soccer teams play top-tier squads in exhibition matches

BY JACK DUNN
Staff Writer

The Xavier men’s soccer team lost a close exhibition match 2-1 to the No. 7 Indiana Hoosiers on Monday Aug. 14, and then tied the Duke Blue Devils on Thursday, Aug. 17, moving them to 1-1-1 in pre-season play.

The Hoosiers, who went 12-2-7 last season, struck first and took a 1-0 advantage going into the half. Senior forward Matt Vasquez hit paydirt in the 73rd minute to tie it, but the Hoosiers were able to pull ahead in the final minutes. The Hoosiers held

advantages in shots (7-2) and corner kicks (8-1), but the Musketeers held an advantage in saves (4-1). Because this was an exhibition game, no official stats were recorded.

“We put a game like this on our schedule to measure ourselves against a top 10, mature team in a road environment,” head coach Andy Fleming said after the loss. “As much as we play to win, I think learning lessons and seeing the demands of the game at a premium is what it’s about and it’s what we got tonight.”

The Musketeers closed out the exhibition schedule

against Duke at the Shindigz National Soccer Festival with a 1-1 draw after a 20-minute overtime period. Both goals were scored on penalty kicks, with the Musketeers’ coming in the first 10 minutes off Vasquez’s foot. Duke scored its penalty kick after halftime. Despite the draw, the Musketeers held an advantage in shooting 15-6. Xavier also took more corner kicks than the Blue Devils 12-5.

Senior defender Cory Brown was awarded preseason All-Big East team honors and was one of two players to be unanimously selected.



Photo courtesy of pickinsplinters.com

Cory Brown (No. 5) looks to have a stellar senior season for Xavier.

He has earned that honor every season and was the preseason and postseason Big East Defender of the Year in 2016.

The Musketeers are looking to improve on last year’s .500 season, where they went 8-8-3. They also went 4-4-1 in conference play.

Xavier hopes to continue to keep its strong play at home, where it went 6-2-2 last year, and improve on the road, where it went 2-6-1. The Musketeers were ranked No. 6 in the Big East coaches poll this preseason.

The regular season begins on Friday against the Loyola Chicago Wolves at the XU Soccer Complex at 7:30 p.m.

BY DONNIE MENKE
Staff Writer

The women’s soccer team split a pair last week, defeating Cleveland State 3-2 on Aug. 18 and losing 3-1 to No. 12 Duke on Aug. 20.

The win against Cleveland State marked the first victory for rookie head coach Nate Lie.

Junior Samantha Dewey opened the scoring in the 62nd minute after taking a pass from junior Jessica Miller across the penalty box before putting the shot in the bottom left corner. Dewey, took a pass eight minutes later from junior Emma Westwater, collecting her second goal of the match.

Xavier got an insurance goal two minutes after that when freshman Sydney Schembri added another to the tally.

The Musketeers emerged victorious even though

Cleveland State scored goals in the 78th and 84th minutes.

Just two days later, Xavier traveled to Durham, N.C. to take on the 12th ranked Duke Blue Devils. Xavier was able to strike first, with redshirt senior Tori Doss scoring just 13 minutes into the contest. Duke pulled even in the 16th minute, however, and the score remained 1-1 until the 73rd minute, when the Blue Devils pulled ahead for good on a penalty kick.

They added another goal in the 89th minute to seal the deal, and Xavier fell 3-1.

Defense against Duke was a problem for Xavier, as the team allowed 23 shots, with 13 being on goal. They were also stifled on the attack, only managing two shots on goal.

Xavier returns home this Friday to face Ball State, with the kickoff set for 4:30 p.m. It also faces Drake at home on Sunday at 1 p.m.



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Women’s soccer team during a team huddle at the XU Soccer Complex.

Sense8 gets an X-rated remake

Porn site offers to take on the continuation of Netflix series

BY KEVIN THOMAS
Campus News Editor

In a wild and completely unprecedented move in the history of television, xHamster, a porn website, has offered to produce and host *Sense8*, a Netflix original series that was recently canceled after its second season. Netflix offered to produce a finale movie for the show, but that apparently just wasn't good enough for xHamster.

"I find it surprising it hasn't happened already, because it's a money-making opportunity and the porn industry is all about making money, I guess," sophomore Spanish major Shannon Link said. "I don't know, I don't watch porn."

Sense8 is a show about eight strangers from around the world who have a psychic connection. The show follows the way that they all interact with each other as they try to figure out why they are connected and what exactly it means. It also explores subjects of sexuality and gender identity amongst the eight connected people. The show is produced and created by Lilly and Lana Wachowski, two trans women who were behind the *Matrix* movie series.

In a blog post on the xHamster website, Alex Hawkins, the vice president of xHamster, said that the website is "one of the most trafficked websites on the in-

ternet ... (that gets) more visitors daily than the New York Times, ESPN, or the Daily Mail (sic)." The other part of the argument coming from xHamster is that they have "a long history of fighting for the rights of sexual speech and non-normative sexuality," a theme that is present throughout the two seasons available.

It would be a brand-new move and the first-ever expansion of its kind. The blog post makes sure to clarify that they're "not talking about a parody, or something less than, but an actual revival of the series."

Link, who has admittedly never seen the show, believes that she would continue watching it (if she had the inclination) even with it being hosted on a porn website.

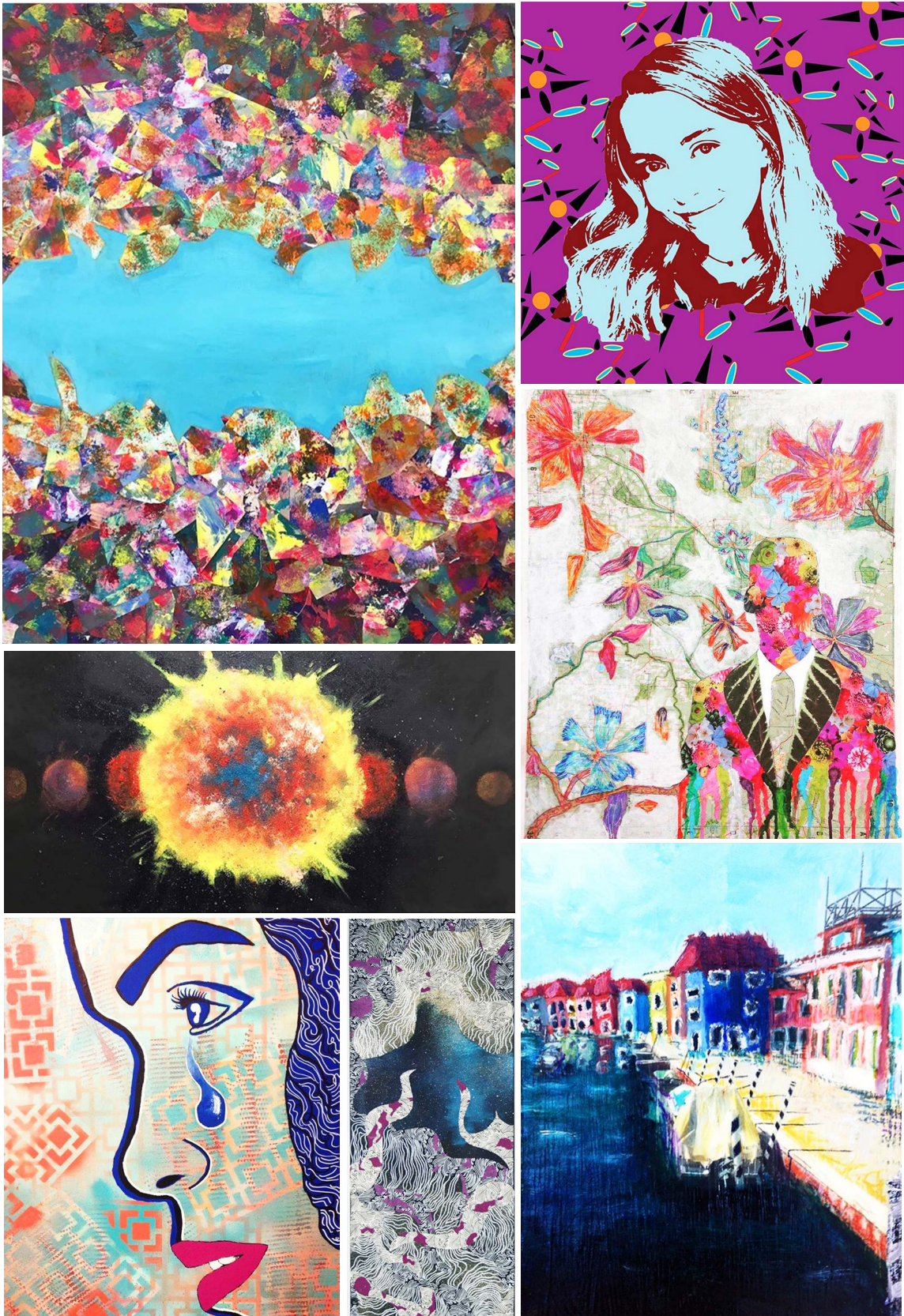
"I mean... It's still the same show," Link said, "just different producers who happen to also work in porn."

Although Link said the hosting situation would not affect her hypothetical viewing, she does acknowledge the trouble that might give others.

"I'd like to say (it wouldn't affect viewing), but it would definitely play a factor, because not everyone supports porn... but I think it could definitely drop the ratings. Or wildly increase them. Who can tell?"

Explore Student Art

Sophomore Sheridan Davenport shares her colorful mixed media work with the campus



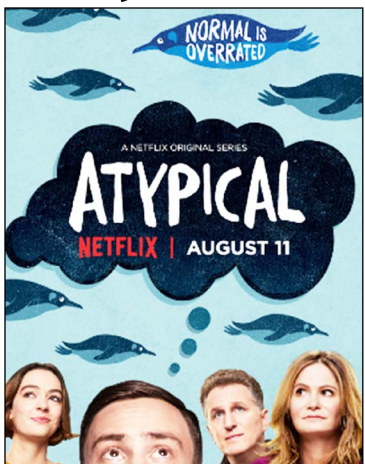
Sheridan is a sophomore graphic design major. She uses all different mediums, and most of her art is mixed media. Her greatest artist inspiration is "the world around (her) but (she) also implements a focus on how (she's) affected and the lessons (she's) learned." Her work has been featured in the Contemporary Art Center in Cincinnati as well as at SCAD.

To take a look at more of Sheridan's work, check out her Instagram page, @theartofsheridan

New school year? New shows to binge watch

BY RILEY HEAD
A&E Editor

A quick guide if you're looking for your next favorite show to keep you company this semester.



Netflix recently released this show that is a refreshing new take on the human experience. Catch yourself identifying with the main character, Sam, or expand your worldview.



A classic show with loveable characters and an amplitude of seasons, this staple of show-binging will keep you happy all semester. It will also give you something to chat about with your parents.



Stranger Things has become a cult classic almost simultaneously with its release. The new season is still being produced so you have some time to catch up with the adorable main characters.



This show centers around the making of NastyGal online vintage store and creator Sophia Amoruso's life as she gains self-sufficiency. As a college student, her journey is both relatable & inspiring.



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COHEN
UNIVERSITY



BY LEAH HIMES
Guest Writer

As I get ready for the upcoming school year, I recall my past two years and how those years have helped me grow as a person.

Freshman year brought a storm of confusion, stress and emotions — but also fun. It was the first year of new experiences. It was the first year away from home for weeks at a time. Freshman year was the start of finding out more about myself. I grew both academically and socially.

One of the first things I learned was that I didn't need to bring everything with me. I will admit that I overpacked and didn't have enough storage space for everything. I learned that study groups are very helpful because I learned more while studying with classmates than on my own.

I learned to keep in touch with family and call them often. I only live about 20-30 minutes away, but I still call my mom to update her on my life here at Xavier. I told her about my classes, my new friends and everything.

I learned that you should definitely go to class and READ THE SYLLABUS.

When you miss a class, you miss a lot of material and it becomes difficult to catch up. I learned that syllabi are very handy because they remind you of your due dates for assignments and projects. I learned that extra credit can be a big help at the end of semesters.

When you're in your room, leave the door open. Doing this helped me socialize more. It also motivated me to keep my room clean.

I also learned that you don't have to be best friends with your roommate — being acquaintances was good enough for me and my roommate freshman year.

One last important thing I learned my freshman year is that it is okay — and better — to ask for help rather than try and figure it out on my own.

My sophomore year taught me to be careful when choosing roommates. When it came time to choose where to live and who to live with in the fall semester, it was stressful because I met someone new but didn't actually get the time to really know them before asking them to join the group for housing for sophomore year.

Getting involved was important for developing a good social life. Joining clubs

helped me make a lot of new friends and they look good on a resume.

Through the rest of my years, my circle of friends changed and branched out to include different people with different interests. The changing of my friend group helped me figure out better ways to balance my time between people.

Sophomore year, the workload got harder and I learned that I would not stay friends with everyone I met freshman year.

A lot of friends from my first year ended up becoming acquaintances and I learned who my true friends were.

I have also learned to not take my college career for granted. While I may be stressed and want to skip this part of my life right now, I know I'll miss college. I've met friends for life here and I realized that just having the opportunity to go to college to continue my education is rare.

The last lesson I've learned is that being homesick is different than it used to be. Instead of missing my family during the school year, I miss my friends during the summer time, because Xavier has become my home.



BY PHILLIP DUNN
Guest Writer

My time at Xavier has been one of growth, challenges and learning. I have had my ups and downs, but after four years and eight semesters, I think I made the right choice by coming to Xavier.

I graduated from high school in 2013 and came to Xavier as a Spanish major in the fall of that year. I have never changed my major. My placement test put me in Spanish 305 as a first-year. I finished almost all of the core curriculum in my first five semesters, taking one or

two Spanish classes a semester. At this point, I've taken more than enough Spanish classes for the major. I've also taken several French literature classes, where I've made some of my best friends at Xavier. I was an undergraduate research assistant to Dr. Mantero in summer of 2016 and I co-translated a book of poems by a Baja Californian author with him. I wrote my thesis in fall of 2016, on a Mexican science fiction novel.

By far the best experience I've had at Xavier was the Nicaragua Solidarity Semester. Since 1995-96, Xavier has sent

students to live with families in Barrio La Luz in Managua, Nicaragua. All of these families face economic challenges. I lived with a family of six headed by Marcia, a single mother. The other family members were doña Juanita, Marcia's mother; doña Mayra, Marcia's elder sister; Mario, Marcia's son; Angie, Mario's wife; and Daniela, Marcia's daughter.

I studied with seven other Xavier students, with classes in Nicaraguan history, liberation theology, liberation psychology, Spanish and a service/culture class. Two days a week, we worked at a

non-governmental organization offering social services, — in my case, the Centro Cultural de Batahola Norte, where I helped facilitate a teenagers' reading club in Spanish and an English conversation group.

I believe that we all came to see ourselves as members of the community and were loath to leave at the end. I returned, however, with a new sense of purpose that helped me clarify my goals for what should be my last semester at Xavier. I plan to study liberatory education and second language acquisition with Dr. Hodgson in order to become an ESL teacher.

I will never forget the people who touched my life in Nicaragua: Marcia's family; other people from Barrio La Luz, especially Kenia Castro and her family; my local Teaching English as a Foreign Language classmates from Nicaraguan history class; and my coworkers at Batahola Norte.

At Xavier, I have found many friends in my classmates and mentors among my professors, such as Dr. José María Mantero, Dr. Ceo-DiFrancesco and Dr. Irene Hodgson. I am grateful to all these people. They have made me who I am as I prepare to leave Xavier.